

News Release

U of M Crookston Hosts Musician, Songwriter Joe Crookston for a Concert on Tuesday, March 20, 2007

By Krista Lemos, Elizabeth Tollefson on Monday, March 19, 2007



Joe Crookston

CROOKSTON, Minn. (March 1, 2007) – One of New York’s finest acoustic songwriters and performers, Joe Crookston will appear for the first time in his namesake town Crookston, Minn., on Tuesday, March 20, 2007. The concert will be held in Bede Ballroom located on the second floor of the Student Center at 7 p.m. Tickets for the concert are \$5 each or \$2.50, with the donation of a canned good for the local food shelf. UMC students are free.

The concert, titled, “An Intergenerational Festival of Song,” combines Crookston’s unique songwriting, guitar style, singing, story telling and undeniable kinetic performance style. *“One of my first childhood memories, at the age of three, was on a trip through Crookston, Minn. I’ve always wanted to perform a concert in my namesake town”,* Crookston said.

Now living in Ithaca, N.Y., Joe Crookston’s music is deeply rooted in the grand celebration of life, death, ancestry and the interconnectedness of us all. Born and raised in Northeast Ohio, with Hungarian musical roots, he inherited his love of music and song from his late mother, a prolific songwriter and accordion player. Whether it’s his mesmerizing guitar sound, bubbling banjo, finely crafted lyrics, or his kinetic connection with his audience, his music draws from his rural Ohio roots and exudes a remarkable intergenerational, universal, and timeless quality. In a project inspired by Woody Guthrie, Joe Crookston was recently awarded a year-long grant (2006-2007) from The Rockefeller Foundation to travel around the state of New York, interview local residents, gather stories and write new songs based on his experiences and conversations. His project is called, “Songs of the Finger Lakes.”

The Seattle Folklore Society says... *“I’ve watched audiences glued to their seats at the end of Joe’s shows simply not wanting the evening to end. There is a spirit in his music that is simultaneously sacred, celebratory, intergenerational and entertaining. Don’t surprised if you drive home singing his songs with a renewed sense of what’s possible.”*

For more information and tickets, call Rand Rasmussen at 218-281-8555 (rrassmuss@umn.edu). To learn more about Joe Crookston, visit www.joecrookston.com.

The University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC) delivers more than 24 different undergraduate degree programs, including online options, in agriculture; arts, humanities and social sciences; business; math, science and technology; and natural resources. UMC is dedicated to helping students and the region aim higher, reach further and dream big dreams. To learn more, visit www.UMCrookston.edu.

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